

11/8/69

Dear Nick,

I appreciate your reply, its promptness, and the check. I will reply candidly, the only honest basis of communication between friends.

There never was any question but that your committee was to pay all my transportation expenses and a small honorarium. There never was any doubt I was to get the fare in advance, for I did not have it to advance, and that I would use the honorarium to finance other travel, to see others working in the field and bring them up to date on what I had learned. And there never was any doubt there was no chance of personal gain for me in this exhausting undertaking.

George did send me \$100 in advance, and he did give me some money when I was there. He also sent a check with a letter to which I responded 11/25. My wife is ill and is resting, so I cannot now consult the books on this. When he punched me right after the Shaw trial, he said he had sent another \$100.00. It never got here and he never answered any of the letters I wrote to ascertain if it was lost in the mail. In fact, a needless and particularly inexcusable abuse has been George's refusal to respond in any way. I cannot even afford the \$1.00 for the off-rate phone call. George knew my situation, as you did not. I've had not a cent of income in five years, with the little return from the first book put into the second. We are, with no income and no backlog, really very deep in debt, the interest alone being a major problem for us—all from this. That is why I am unable to travel without getting a fare in advance. I have found, unhappily, that the best-intentioned people, the finest, always manage to assume their failures to keep their promises are of no consequences. Aside from the rather enormous amount of time it has taken and the exhausting additional load it imposed, my various trip to California, after what little I have been given was applied, put me well over \$1,000 in debt. Fair is intolerable, and especially the decent people who know this—in all cases they did—should never have added this burden. And when you consider the hours I work every day, the little sleep I have gotten, it is indecent for a fine guy like George to add this abuse. I am old enough to have learned not to harbor these things. My high opinion of George is unchanged. But I also know that unless he is very sick, he could have responded the first time I asked him about the balance due me and saved me all the time my later, wasted letters required. If this time came out of work I've done, and until you are here, you will not know what I have or how long it will take just to write what I have. Before I leave this, I want you also to know that I do not accept any invitations from those who want me to speak, where I am willing to do it without income from it, without advance tickets. I make an exception of your people because of George, who I have always liked, and his dad, who is one of the noblest souls ever to grace the earth and for whom I have the greatest respect and the deepest affection. None of this was known to the rest of your committee, I assume, but it is all true... Among the things I cannot take time to do is keep a separate set of books on unkept promises. The easiest way to learn what you owe me is to call the airlines, get the cost of a Baltimore-San Diego round trip, add about \$15.00 for the cost of travel and parking to the airport, and, if you can learn from George the small honorarium he said I are would be. My best recollection is that it was to have been, from both appearances, between \$125-150, which is, I think you realize, nothing at all. There was something about if there could be a collection for one meeting, in which event I was to get whatever there was over the cost. I am not clear on this. On the books, the arrangement was as you recall, with you paying transportation costs, which is 10% more discount than the best customer among bookstores gets. If she can find it when she awakens, I'll get a copy of the invoice from my wife and enclose that, I see no point in the immediate return of the unsold books, unless you want to get rid of them. There may, from time to time, be a call for some. But when you return any, be sure to insure them, for there is always damage and I cannot sell damaged ones.

To answer your specific questions: My wife has weakened. From our books it is unclear whether my 11/25 letter refers to an additional check of what George gave me when I was there. I find no accompanying letter from him for that period, so I assume it is the letter. Now, the total due on the books is \$181.65, as per enclosed invoice, and our check to the travel agent is for \$270.98. This is exclusive of the mid-trip not ticketed in advance, those I'd expected to finance from the honorarium and without which I've not have committed them. I fully appreciate the problems you have, but I hope you will also understand mine, for unlike you, I have no resources upon which to draw, not even an income for daily living costs, and I did expect you would be in a position to do what you said you would (nothing personal here). As you suggest, we will apply your \$25.00 check to the books.

~~Bradley~~ Bradley: yes, it is my talking to him. George has also been out of communication with his father and those close to him. As soon as I heard he had filed the suit I told his dad to get a copy of the papers for me because I have what I regard as a successful and non-at-fault defense for you people. I also asked Alvin by phone. Then I asked Art Levin. Nobody sent him. I worked in the blind when Bradley was here but I convinced him I had a total defense for you, told him what it is, he agrees it is not only a defense but right and proper, and he said he'd drop it. Unless it is mandatory that you do something, and I am not competent to advise, not being a lawyer, I urge you not to spend a cent on defense but keep in touch with me on it. I'll also be in touch with him. I've gotten some things he wants for him and sent them to him. If you can let me know what is required for this business - it applies to you to be ended, I'll ask that of him and I think he'll go ahead and do it. I do not know the conditions of his life, but he has been away for a while and may be busy on his return. He is also going to drop his action against Penn. Do not publicize his return. He is also going to drop his action against Penn. Do not publicize this, for Penn has long since deserted his senses, things I am sure kind of an agent and would be absolutely certain there is something sinister in my helping him. He is really sick. He has owed a \$150 for two years, no single funds for world travel, refuses to sign over the money or settle for a set of the 26 and a print of the 26, both of which are on card and sells for less than he owes and I wanted these for a foreign researcher who is without funds! Need I tell you one of what has happened to this really fine person? I just leave him alone and ignore the nasty things he does and says. They come back to me. But I also know this is not the real Penn. He is now irrational. But do not let legal requirements lapse. If they are close, call him, tell him what I have told you, and ask how to proceed. If it is not close, tell me what your situation is and let me handle it for you. I've no time for the details, but your hunch on the purposes is in part right but I believe it is incomplete. I think you should know all this nonsense originates with those so extreme they regard him as red and was carefully manufactured and fed Garrison by a combination of Turner and Boxley, each backstopping the other, each without vestige of reason. The total of what they manufactured is beyond belief and none of this is for any public use. If I am ever out there again I'll tell your smallest group the story, but for no use, ever. Joel Palmer was also in on it. He fled New Orleans the day after I questioned him, at his invitation, with Fensterwald accompanying me and saying nothing, Palmer refused to let me tape it and when I invited him to, for himself, he decline that, too. By the way, if you know his current address, I'd like it, because he has a roll of film he got from me he has steadfastly refused to return and if necessary I'll get a lawyer to get it.... I do not now anticipate any trip in the near future, for I am so exhausted I cannot make trips just to help others anymore. I have to have some income from the m. Bearing on this, I have completed a quarter of a million word study on the King murder, and I would hope that when people know this, they will regard me as the equal of those they pay to exound on the beauties of the pink-eyed pyramids of Peru, the more esoteric aspects of the fairies and needles ~~and~~ philosophy and all the many things so attractive to paying audiences.

Bradley told me he learned of George's problem through his own personal investigation. I have no other knowledge. I must say for him he was gentlemanly in his treatment of it and was without rancor or bitterness in speaking of any of you.

I appreciate your offer of publication of bits of my work in the newsletter but that is a futility at best and an open invitation to others to follow it down and misuse it, as it also is a handicap in any effort at commercialization, so I must decline. The time is past for one-shots and minor sensations to accomplish anything meaningful. Broke as I am I've turned down an offer of \$500 for a magazine piece extracted from it and an offer to consider consolidating it in a single small book. There are other uses I project for some of the more important material. I cannot go into them now. Some are legal, some are in personal dealings. Also, my experience, perhaps not duplicated in your experience, is that we are carefully watched and "explanations" are contrived, to hold these in line who ultimately may break loose. The time has come for different approaches, I have initiated some, and with some success.

My interests in what Lifton has been up to are not personal. I have never done anything to hurt him and I will not. The opposite is not and never has been true. He is a complex of brilliance, unscrupulousness, persuasiveness and ego. He has done much harm, will do more, and has, to date, accomplished no good for what we all seek, which is the bitterness of his life. He is, in addition, raving mad, sometimes knowing it, unable to control. I doubt if you have seen him this way, or heard him. It is quite an experience. Add to this his wildness and the fact that he has already undertaken projects that cannot serve constructive purposes and were designed for the contrary, and I think you can understand my desire to have a complete file of his libels and to be kept up with any known to others. He is usually careful with those he thinks may be in touch with me.

Diane is unconscionable. He has latched himself to Garrison and when the course of honor required him to be devil's advocate he was court jester and sycophant, for the really numerous and high lecture fees he got from it. There are some areas in the New Orleans transcripts where the work is of the greatest significance. They add a little to what I gave them but they used. The knowledge is not the greater significance, for that is of minor detail, such as a name when I didn't have it. The real significance is that this proof I had already developed and published was tested in open court and survives it 100%. It is almost all in books I had already written and copyrighted in limited editions. George never communicated. I offered the loan of all. He got, I think one, and never said a word. The other side is the immediate problem, the time Garrison got and the exposure was for horseshit and irresponsibility, and it is attention that otherwise would have gone for serious stuff. If you consider that just about all the exposure our side has had for two years, more, has been of him and in terms of him, you begin to see what I mean. Add to this the serious and adverse influence his legal failure imposed on all of us and what we seek and what you do not know, what he could have done and didn't, and you'll see why I call it a fiasco. Whether he'll have learned for the future I cannot say. In some ways he is the finest mind of its sort I have seen, and there is no doubt in my mind of the sincerity of his intentions. His flop is part of the reason nothing serious on our side is publishable, for publishers fear there is no acceptability left. His re-election is a great success. I did what I could to help, which is very little, but I did write a number of letters and believe I had some influence in immobilizing opposition. My liking for Leacock and Gser is not sufficient for me to bracket them with Darrow!.. It is not alone I remember of your group. It is just that her face is prettier to me than that of men. Best regards to everyone-not only Diane,